

6250.0.55.001 - Technical Manual: Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Expanded CURF, Australia, Nov 2010

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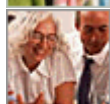
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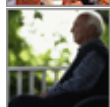
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Introduction



INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

This technical manual provides information about the release of microdata from the 2010 Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey (CORMS). Microdata are the most detailed information available from a survey and are generally the answers to most individual questions on the questionnaire or the data derived from answers to two or more questions.

The microdata are only released with the approval of the Australian Statistician, and for CORMS are only available through an expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF). This expanded CURF option provides access to more detailed information than would otherwise be available from a basic CURF product. A basic CURF has not been produced from this survey.

This publication provides general information and technical details about the CURF and

should be used as a reference document when interrogating the file. The CURF can be accessed through the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or via an ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL).

The ABS RADL is a secure online data query service that approved clients can access via the ABS website. Within RADL, users submit data queries in SAS, SPSS or STATA analytical software languages to interrogate and analyse CURFs which are kept within the ABS environment. The results of these queries are automatically checked for confidentiality prior to being made available to the users from their desktops.

The ABSDL is available to approved clients in a secure data laboratory in any ABS State or Territory office. This service provides researchers with a more responsive and interactive environment in which to analyse the CURFs than that offered by the RADL.

Further information about the RADL and ABSDL services, and other information to assist users in understanding and using CURFs in general, is available from the CURF Microdata Entry Page.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The 2010 CORMS was conducted throughout Australia in November 2010 as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The CURF file contains broad level information for all persons in Australia aged 15 years and over, and more detailed information on recent migrants and temporary residents. For the purposes of this survey, recent migrants are defined as people who were born overseas, arrived in Australia after 2000, were aged 15 years or over on arrival, were not an Australian citizen or New Zealand citizen on arrival, did not hold New Zealand citizenship and have permanent Australian resident status. Information is also included for temporary residents who planned to stay in Australia for 12 months or more (i.e. do not have permanent Australian resident status).

Information collected includes socio-demographic characteristics (such as age, sex and birthplace), employment characteristics (including labour force status, occupation and industry), job characteristics (before coming to Australia to live and since arriving in Australia), educational qualifications obtained (such as level and field of education, both before coming to Australia to live and since arriving in Australia) and migration information (including visa category and residency status on arrival to live in Australia as well as visa category and residency status as at November 2010).

Comparability of time series

Previous information on each of these topics was reported in:

Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Expanded CURF Australia Nov 2007 (cat. no. 6250.0.25.002).

Similar information was also collected in 1993, 1996, 1999 and 2004, however, due to the different methodologies used in the earlier surveys, and major collection differences, comparisons can only be made between 2010 and 2007 data.

Published estimates

Estimates from the 2010 CORMS relating to the topics on this CURF, as well as more

information on the survey sample, conceptual framework, definitions and methodology, explanatory notes and glossary, can be accessed free of charge on the ABS website and were published in:

Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2010 (cat. no. 6250.0).

Survey Methodology



SURVEY METHODOLOGY

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

Scope

The statistics in this CURF were compiled from data collected in the CORMS, conducted throughout Australia in November 2010 as part of the Monthly Population Survey (MPS). The MPS consists of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and supplementary surveys.

The publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about interviewing which are relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

The scope of the survey is restricted to people aged 15 years and over who were usual residents of private dwellings and excludes:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the Census of Population and Housing and estimated resident populations;
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

In 2010, CORMS was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded people living in Indigenous communities in very remote parts of Australia. Previous cycles of this survey excluded all persons living in very remote areas.

Coverage

The records in this CURF relate to persons covered by the survey enumerated in November 2010. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey. See Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

Information was collected through interviews conducted over a two-week period during November 2010. Interviews were mainly conducted over the phone with some conducted face-to-face. Information was obtained from one responsible adult present on each visa

application in the household. For example, consider a household with three usual residents where two were listed together on one visa application and the other person listed on a separate visa application. In this case, two people in the household would have provided information, one for each visa application.

All interviews were conducted using computer assisted interviewing (CAI).

Sample size

Supplementary surveys are not conducted using the full LFS sample. The sample for the CORMS was seven-eighths of the LFS sample.

The CORMS CURF contains 47,099 fully responding confidentialised records. Of these 2,650 records were obtained from recent migrants and temporary residents.

It should be noted that steps are taken to confidentialise the unit record data made available on the CURF. This may include deleting some records. Consequently, the number of dwellings in the sample outlined above may not correspond to the number of records included on the CURF. For further details, see 'Chapter 3 Using the CURF Data'.

WEIGHTING, ESTIMATION AND BENCHMARKING

As the survey was conducted on a sample of households in Australia, it is important to consider the method of sample selection when deriving estimates from the CURF. This is particularly important as a person's chance of selection in the survey varies depending on the state or territory of enumeration.

Weighting

Weighting is the process of adjusting results from the sample survey to infer results for the total in-scope population. To do this, a weight is allocated to each sample unit, i.e. each person. The weight effectively indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

The first step in calculating weights for each sample unit is to assign an initial weight which is equal to the inverse of the probability of being selected in the survey. For example, if the probability of a person being selected in the survey was one in 600, then the selected person would have an initial weight of 600 (that is, they represent 600 persons in the population).

Estimation

Survey estimates of counts of persons are obtained by summing the weights of persons with the characteristic of interest.

Benchmarking

The initial weights are calibrated to align with an independent estimate of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks'. Weights are calibrated against population benchmarks to ensure that the survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population, rather than to the distribution within the sample itself. Where estimates are derived from the CURF, it is essential that they are calculated by adding the weights of persons in each category and not just by counting the number in each category. If each person's 'weight' were to be ignored, then no account would be taken of a person's chance

of selection or of different response rates across population groups, and the resulting estimates could be biased. Replicate weights have been included on the CURF which can be used to calculate sampling error. For more information, refer to the 'Standard Errors' section in Chapter 3.

The population included in the benchmark totals correspond to the scope of the survey. For this survey two sets of benchmarks were used, and were derived from the November 2010 LFS. The first set of benchmarks specified the population distribution in designated categories of state or territory of usual residence by area of usual residence by sex by age group. The second set of benchmarks in designated categories of state or territory of usual residence by migrant status.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

All sample surveys are subject to error which can be broadly categorised as either sampling error or non-sampling error.

Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the total population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. Sampling error can be reliably measured as it is calculated based on the scientific methods used to design surveys. Non-sampling error can occur at any stage throughout the survey process. For example, persons selected for the survey may not respond (non-response); survey questions may not be clearly understood by the respondent; responses may be incorrectly recorded by interviewers; or there may be errors when coding or processing the survey data.

Sampling error

One measure of the likely difference between an estimate derived from a sample of persons and the value that would have been produced if all persons in scope of the survey had been included, is given by the Standard Error (SE) which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of persons was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that the sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all persons had been enumerated and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs.

Another measure of the likely difference is the Relative Standard Error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate. Generally, only estimates (numbers, percentages, means and medians) with RSEs less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. In ABS publications, estimates with an RSE of 25% to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *15.7) to indicate that the estimate should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs over 50% are indicated by a double asterisk (e.g. **2.8) and should be considered unreliable for most purposes. The formula for calculating the RSE of an estimate (y) is:

$$RSE(y) = SE(y)/y \times 100\%$$

In addition to the main weight (as outlined earlier), each record on the CURF also contains 30 'replicate weights'. The purpose of these replicate weights is to enable the calculation of the sample error on each estimate produced.

The basic concept behind the replication approach is to select different sub-samples repeatedly (30 times) from the whole sample. For each of these sub-samples the statistic of interest is calculated. The variance of the full sample statistic is then estimated using the

variability among the replicate statistics calculated from these sub-samples. As well as enabling variances of estimates to be calculated relatively simply, replicate weights also enable unit record analyses such as chi-square and logistic regression to be conducted which take into account the sample design. Further information about RSEs and how they are calculated can be referenced in the 'Technical Note' section of the following publication relevant to this CURF: **Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2010** (cat. no. 6250.0). RSEs for estimates in the tables published in this publication are available in spreadsheet format, as attachments to this publication.

Non-sampling error

One of the main sources of non-sampling error is non-response by persons selected in the survey. Non-response occurs when persons cannot or will not co-operate, or cannot be contacted. Non-response can affect the reliability of results and can introduce a bias. The magnitude of any bias depends upon the rate of non-response and the extent of the difference between the characteristics of those persons who responded to the survey and those that did not.

Every effort was made to reduce non-response and other non-sampling errors in CORMS to a minimum by careful design and testing of the questionnaire, training and supervision of interviewers, and undertaking extensive editing and quality control procedures at all stages of data processing.

One advantage of the CAI technology used to conduct interviews is that it potentially reduces non-sampling error by enabling edits to be applied as the data are being collected. The interviewer is alerted immediately if information entered into the computer is either outside the permitted range for a particular question, or contradictory to information previously recorded during the interview. These edits allow the interviewer to query respondents and resolve issues during the interview. CAI sequencing of questions is also automated so that respondents are only asked relevant questions and in the appropriate order, thereby eliminating interviewer sequencing errors.

Using the CURF Data



USING THE CURF DATA

About the Microdata

The data included in the 2010 CORMS Expanded CURF are released under the provisions of the **Census and Statistics Act 1905**. These provisions allow for the release of data in the form of unit records where the information is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. Accordingly, there are no names or addresses of survey respondents on the files. In addition, other steps have also been taken to protect the confidentiality of respondents, while at the same time maintaining the integrity of the data and optimising content. These include:

- reducing the level of detail for some data items;
- changing some characteristics, particularly records identified as high risk;

- excluding some data items that were collected.

As a result, data on the CURF will not exactly match other previously published estimates. Any changes to the distribution of values are not significant and the statistical validity of aggregate data is not affected. Subject to the limitations of the sample size and the data classifications used, it is possible to interrogate the CURF, produce tabulations and undertake statistical analyses to individual specifications.

File structure

The 2010 CORMS Expanded CURF is a single level file containing 47,099 confidentialised records. Each record holds the person level data of a respondent to the survey. The file also includes some household characteristics applicable to the respondent such as 'Main source of household income'. Using the person weights provided for each record, the data can be used to estimate characteristics for the Australian population.

The file contains demographic information about each respondent including sex, age, country of birth and state/territory of usual residence. Some labour force information is also available such as: occupation, industry, hours worked, multiple job holders, number of jobs held in Australia and difficulties faced when looking for employment.

Migration and visa information including language spoken at home, citizen and visa status details, as well as educational attainment (level and field) before and after migration can be found in the file. Geographic identifiers are also included (i.e. state/territory of usual residence, capital city/balance of state).

The file is available in three formats (SAS, SPSS and STATA).

Identifiers

Each person has a unique random identifier - ABSPID.

Geography

To enable analysis at a regional level, each record on the CURF contains a state/territory identifier (STATEURC) and a part of state identifier (CCBOSCF). The CCBOSCF data item has two output categories - State capital city and Balance of state/territory. Only the statistical divisions for the six state capital cities defined in the **Australian Standard Geographical Classification** (cat. no. 1216.0) are classified as capital cities. All other regions in Australia, for example, the Australian Capital Territory (including Canberra) and the Northern Territory (including Darwin) are classified to the Balance of state/territory category.

Multiple Response Fields

A number of questions asked during the Characteristics of Recent Migrants survey allowed respondents to give more than one response. Three of these items are included on the CURF. Each response category for these multiple response questions is treated as a separate data item. These data items have the same general data item identifier (SAS name) but are each suffixed with a letter - A for the first response, B for the second response, C for the third response, D for the fourth response and so on. Each data item has either a 'Not applicable' or a valid response category. A 'Not applicable' response indicates that the response category is not relevant for the respondent.

An example of this is the 'All difficulties finding first job held in Australia' data item which has 8 response categories. From these categories eight separate data items have been produced - ALDIFJCA, ALDIFJCB, ALDIFJCC...ALDIFJCH, as defined in the data item list.

Therefore, as respondents are able to select more than one response, the sum of individual multiple response categories will be greater than the population - or the number of people applicable - to the particular data item.

Populations

The population relevant to each data item is identified in the data item list and should be borne in mind when extracting and analysing data from the CURF. The actual population count for each data item is equal to the total cumulative frequency minus the 'Not applicable' category.

Generally, all populations, including very specific populations, can be 'filtered' by using other relevant data items. For example, if the population of interest is 'Employed persons', any data item with that population (excluding the Not applicable category) can be used.

For example, the data items 'Full-time or part-time status of usual work' (FTPTWKA) and 'Occupation - ANZSCO 2006' (OCCECURF) are applicable to employed persons only. Therefore, either of the following filters could be used when restricting a table to 'Employed persons' only:

FTPTWKA > 0 or OCCECURF > 00

(Note: For these data items the 'Not applicable' categories (i.e. those persons who are not employed) are codes 0 and code 00 respectively and would be excluded from either population filter shown above).

Conversely, code 1 for the data item 'Labour force status' (LFSCURF) is 'employed persons'. Therefore, once again, if the population of interest is employed persons, this data item could be used as the filter (i.e. LFSCURF = 1).

Weights and Estimation

The CURF contains records of a sample of persons which can be weighted to infer results for the total in-scope population in Australia. The CURF contains one person weight, FINWT for each record. The application of the supplied weights ensures that weighted person estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age, sex, state/territory and part of state. If weights were to be ignored, no account would be taken of a person's chance of selection in the survey or different response rates across population groups, with the result that population counts produced may be biased.

Standard Errors

Standard errors for each estimate produced from this CURF can be calculated using the replicate weights provided on the file.

Each record of the CURF contains 30 sets of replicate weights, REP0101 to REP0130. Using these weights, it is possible to calculate the standard error for estimates produced from this file, using what is known as the delete-a-group Jack-knife standard error estimator.

To obtain the standard error of a weighted estimate, y , calculate the same estimate using each of the 30 replicate weights. The variability between these replicate estimates (denoting

$y(g)$ for group number g) is used to measure the standard error of the original weighted estimate y , using the formula:

$$SE(y) = \sqrt{(29/30) \sum_{g=1}^{30} (y(g) - y)^2}$$

where

g = the replicate group number.

$y(g)$ = the weighted estimate, having applied the weights for replicate group g .

y = the weighted estimate from the full sample.

The delete-a-group Jack-knife method can be applied not just to estimates of population total, but also where the estimate y is a function of estimates of population total, such as a proportion, difference or ratio. For more information on the delete-a-group Jack-knife method of SE estimation, see Research paper: **Weighting and Standard Error Estimation for ABS Household Surveys (Methodology Advisory Committee), July 1999** (cat. no. 1352.0.55.029), which is on the ABS web site.

Use of the delete-a-group Jack-knife method for complex estimates, such as regression parameters from a statistical model, is not straightforward and may not be appropriate. The method as described does not apply to investigations where survey weights are not used, such as unweighted statistical modelling.

Seasonal Factors

Estimates are based on information collected in the survey month, and due to seasonal factors they may not be representative of other months of the year.

Comparison with previous CURFs

Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Expanded CURF, Australia, Nov 2007 (cat. no. 6250.0.25.002) and Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Expanded CURF, Nov 2010, have included migrants who arrived in Australia in the last 10 years (since 1997 and 2000 respectively), were aged 15 years and over on arrival, who had obtained permanent Australian resident status, as well as people who were temporary residents of Australia for 12 months or more.

In 2007, persons born in New Zealand, those holding New Zealand citizenship and those who held Australian citizenship prior to their arrival in Australia were excluded. In 2010, persons holding New Zealand citizenship and those who held Australian citizenship prior to their arrival in Australia were excluded, while other persons born in New Zealand were included. In 2010, this survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded people living in Indigenous communities in very remote parts of Australia. Previous cycles of this survey have excluded all persons living in very remote areas.

Some new data items were collected in November 2010, including: whether would have preferred to have worked longer hours in first job in Australia; main reason not actively looking for work; and main language spoken on arrival.

Data items related to the last visa held before becoming an Australian Citizen, length of time spent overseas since most recent arrival, highest year of school completed and whether working full time or part time just before arrival were not collected in November 2010.

The label 'Type of visa on most recent arrival to live in Australia' was used incorrectly in 2007. The correct label 'Type of visa on arrival to live in Australia' has been used in the 2010. This data item has not changed, only the label used.

Data item list

A complete list of all data items included on the 2010 CORMS Expanded CURF is provided in the Excel spreadsheet (6250055001_DATA_ITEM_LISTING_CORMS10E.XLS) that accompanies this Technical Manual. The data items are grouped under the following broad topics:

- Demographic
- Labour Force
- Migrants
- Visa category
- Education
- Employment
- Income

File Content



FILE CONTENT

Expanded CURF files

This 2010 CORMS Expanded CURF can be accessed via the RADL or ABSDL and is available in SAS, SPSS and STATA formats. The CURF comprises the following files:

MIG10E.sas7bdat - contains the person level confidentialised survey unit record file in SAS for Windows format.

MIG10E.SAV - contains the person level confidentialised survey unit record data in SPSS for Windows format.

MIG10E.DTA - contains the person level confidentialised survey unit record data in STATA format.

Information files

6250055001_DATA_ITEM_LISTING_CORMS10E.XLS - contains all the data items, including details of categories and code values, that are available on the Expanded CURF. The file is in Microsoft Excel format.

FREQUENCIES_MIG10E.TXT - contains weighted and unweighted frequency counts for all person level data items. The file is in plain text format.

Conditions of Release



CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

The 2010 CORMS Expanded CURF is released in accordance with the Statistics Determination 1983 (Clause 7, Statutory Rules 1983, No.19) in pursuance of section 13 of the **Census and Statistics Act 1905**. As required by the Determination, the information contained in the CURF can only be disclosed in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of any particular person or organisation to which it relates.

The Australian Statistician's approval is required for the release of each CURF. Prior to being granted access to a CURF, the head of each organisation must sign a legal undertaking to ensure that all of its members abide by ABS terms and conditions of CURF access. These undertakings legally bind those accessing CURFs to:

- use the data only for a specified statistical purpose
- not attempt to identify particular persons or organisations
- not disclose, either directly or indirectly, the data to any other person or organisation other than members of their organisation who have been approved by the ABS to have individual access to the information
- not attempt to match, with or without using identifiers, that data with another list of persons or organisations
- in relation to data made available via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL), access the data only in a manner specifically authorised in writing by the ABS
- not attempt to access the data after the term of their authorisation expires, or after their authorisation is rescinded by the organisation which provided it, or after they cease to be a member of that organisation

Use of the data for statistical purposes means use of the information contained in the CURF to produce information of a statistical nature, i.e. the arrangement and classification of numerical facts or data, including statistical analyses or statistical aggregates. Examples of statistical purposes are:

- manipulation of the data to produce means, correlations or other descriptive or summary measures
- estimation of population characteristics
- use of data as input to mathematical models or for other types of analysis (e.g. factor analysis)
- providing graphical or pictorial representations of the characteristics of the population or subsets of the population

Use of the data for unauthorised purposes may render the purchaser liable to severe penalties. Advice about the propriety of any particular intended use of the data should be

sought from the Microdata and Multidimensional data Access Strategies Section of the ABS.

Conditions of sale

All ABS products and services are provided subject to ABS conditions of sale.

Price

CURF access is priced according to ABS Pricing Policy and Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines. For details please see our CURF Prices page.

Accessing the CURF

Organisations wishing to access the 2010 CORMS Expanded CURF are required to sign a legal undertaking. This legally binds its members to comply with the ABS terms and conditions of CURF access. Before applying for CURFs, clients should read the **Responsible Access to CURFs Training Manual** (cat. no. 1406.0.55.003). Assistance in applying for CURF access can be found on the ABS Microdata web pages.

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement provides participating universities with access to a range of ABS products and services. This includes access to the 2010 CORMS Expanded CURF for research and teaching purposes. For further information, Australian university clients should refer to the ABS/Universities Australia CURF Agreement page on the ABS website for an understanding of their entitlements under that agreement.

Further information

For further information please email Microdata and Multidimensional data Access Strategies Section or phone 02 6252 7714.

About this Release

This publication is no longer produced, for CURFs released after 2007 refer to the Microdata: Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia (cat. no. 6250.0.25.002) for supporting information.

This publication provides information about the data available from the Characteristics of Recent Migrants survey released up to 2007, in the form of a basic Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF). The statistics compiled from this basic CURF were compiled from the Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey (CORMS), which was conducted as a supplement to the ABS Monthly Population Survey (MPS), in November every three years.

This publication explains the data content, technical details and conditions of use for the basic CURF and is available on the ABS website and via the 'Information by' link on the RADL home page.

Explanatory Notes

Glossary

GLOSSARY

Australian citizen

Being an Australian citizen formalises a person's membership of the Australian community. It entitles a person to live permanently in Australia, hold an Australian passport and do such things as vote to elect Australia's governments, stand for parliament, work in the Public Service and serve in the armed forces. A person may acquire Australian citizenship in a number of ways, for example, by birth, adoption, descent, resumption or grant of Australian citizenship (naturalisation). Migrants no longer require a visa once citizenship is granted.

Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)

The ASCED is a national standard classification which includes all sectors of the Australian education system: that is, schools, vocational education and training, and higher education. From 2001 ASCED replaced a number of classifications used in administrative and statistical systems, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics Classifications of Qualifications (ABSCQ). The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education. See **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001** (cat. no. 1272.0).

Balance of state

This area comprises the region outside the six state capital Statistical Divisions. The area includes the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

Capital city

This area comprises the Statistical Divisions of the six state capital cities which are defined in the **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2010** (cat. no. 1216.0).

Centrelink or Job Network provider

A government or private agency that provides various kinds of support for people looking for work, to help them find and keep a job.

Certificate not further defined

Survey responses are coded to Certificate not further defined (n.f.d.) when there is not enough information to code them to Certificate I, II, III or IV in the **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001** (cat. no. 1272.0), Level of Education classification.

Country of birth

Country of birth has been classified according to the **Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), Second Edition, 2008** (cat. no. 1269.0).

Employed

Persons who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job, business or farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were;
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
 - on strike or locked out; or
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employed full time

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 or more during the reference week.

Employed part time

Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

Field of education

Field of education is defined as the subject matter of an educational activity. It is categorised according to the **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001** (cat. no. 1272.0). Field of education classification.

Industry

From 2006 Industry has been classified according to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006** (cat. no. 1292.0).

Level of highest non-school qualification

Level of highest non-school qualification identifies the highest qualification a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken.

It is categorised according to the **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001** (cat. no. 1272.0) Level of Education classification.

Main applicant

The 'main applicant' is generally the person whose skills or proposed activities in Australia are assessed by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) as part of the visa application. They will usually have been specifically identified on the application form as the 'main applicant'.

Main English-speaking countries

The list of main English-speaking countries (MESC) provided here is not an attempt to classify countries on the basis of whether or not English is the predominant or official language of each country. It is a list of the main countries from which Australia receives, or has received, significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. These countries comprise the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the United States of America. It is important to note that being from a non main English-speaking country does not imply a lack of proficiency in English.

Main field of non-school qualification

Main field of non-school qualification is defined as the subject matter of the qualification. It is categorised according to the **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001** (cat. no. 1272.0) Field of Education classification.

Non-school qualification

Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Postgraduate Degree level, Master Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level, Bachelor Degree level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be obtained concurrently with school qualifications.

Not in the labour force

Persons who were not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined.

Occupation

From 2006, occupation is classified according to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), First Edition, 2006** (cat. no. 1220.0).

Permanent visa

The permission or authority granted by Australia for foreign nationals to live in Australia permanently.

Recent migrant

A person who was born overseas, who arrived in Australia after 2000, was aged 15 years or over on arrival, was not an Australian citizen or New Zealand citizen on arrival, did not currently hold New Zealand citizenship, and has permanent Australian resident status.

Reference week

The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.

Status in employment

Employed people are classified according to whether they were employees, employers or own account workers.

Temporary visa

The permission or authority granted by Australia for foreign nationals to travel to Australia and stay up to a specified period of time. Temporary entrants include:

- tourists
- students
- business people
- people with specialist skills, such as managers, academics and medical practitioners
- people who make a social or cultural contribution to the community, such as entertainers, media and film staff, sports people, religious workers, visiting academics and public lecturers
- people who contribute to the development of international relations, such as participants in exchange programs and working holiday makers.

Type of visa as at November 2010

The visa the respondent held at the time of interview, that allowed them to stay in Australia. Categories for type of visa as at November 2010 were:

- Permanent Skilled (Independent) - Independent skilled migrants are selected on the basis of their age, skills, qualifications, English language ability and employability, so that they can contribute quickly to the Australian economy.
- Permanent Skilled (Other/n.f.d.) - includes professionals and other skilled workers seeking work or business in Australia, other than Permanent Skilled (Independent).
- Permanent (Other/n.f.d.) - includes all other permanent visa categories (other than Skilled). This includes family visas (e.g. Partner, Child or Parent visa) and all Humanitarian and Refugee visas. Also includes where the type of permanent visa could not be determined.
- Temporary Student - people studying or seeking study, training or skills development in Australia and planning to stay in Australia for 12 months or more.
- Temporary (Other/n.f.d.) - includes business visitors, tourists, working holiday makers and visitors planning to stay in Australia for 12 months or more, or where the type of temporary visa could not be determined.

Type of visa on arrival to live in Australia

The visa the respondent held when they first arrived in Australia to live that allowed them to come to Australia. Categories for type of visa on arrival to live in Australia are defined as:

- Permanent Skilled (Independent) - Independent skilled migrants are selected on the basis of their age, skills, qualifications, English language ability and employability, so that they can contribute quickly to the Australian economy.
- Permanent Skilled (Other/n.f.d.) - includes professionals and other skilled workers seeking work or business in Australia, other than Permanent Skilled (Independent).
- Permanent Family (Partner) - includes Spouse, Prospective Marriage (Fiance(e)) and Interdependency visas.
- Permanent (Other n.f.d.) - includes all other permanent visa categories (other than Skilled and Family (Partner)). This includes other family visas (e.g. Child or Parent visa) and all Humanitarian and Refugee visas. Also includes where the type of permanent visa could not be determined.
- Temporary Student - people studying or seeking study, training or skills development in Australia and planning to stay in Australia for 12 months or more.
- Temporary (Other/n.f.d.) - includes business visitors, tourists, working holiday makers

and visitors planning to stay in Australia for 12 months or more, or where the type of temporary visa could not be determined.

Unemployed

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and;

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSCQ	Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
AQF	Australian Qualifications Framework
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
CURF	confidentialised unit record file
LFS	Labour Force Survey
n.f.d.	not further defined
RADL	Remote Access Data Laboratory
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SAS	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis
SE	standard error
SPSS	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis
STATA	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis

Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are released in accordance with the conditions specified in the Statistics Determination section of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 (CSA). This ensures that confidentiality is maintained whilst enabling micro level data to be released. More information on the confidentiality practices associated with CURFs can be found at the "How is CURF data confidentialised?" page.

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

The Characteristics of Recent Migrants 2010 CURF is an Expanded CURF. The CURF contains information on persons who were born overseas, arrived in Australia after 2000, were aged 15 years and over on arrival, who had obtained permanent Australian resident status, as well as people who were temporary residents of Australia for 12 months or more. Persons holding New Zealand citizenship and those who held Australian citizenship prior to their arrival in Australia were excluded, while other persons born in New Zealand were included. The type of information collected included socio-demographic characteristics (such as age, sex and birthplace), employment characteristics (such as labour force status, occupation and industry), educational qualifications obtained (such as level and field, both before coming to Australia to live and since arriving in Australia) and migration information (such as visa category and residency status on arrival to live in Australia and as at November 2010). New data items collected in 2010 included whether would have preferred to work longer hours in first job in Australia, main reason not actively looking for work and main language spoken on arrival.

Information describing the level of detail provided on the CURF can be referenced in 6250055001_DATA_ITEM_LISTING_CORMS10E.XLS.

TIMELINESS

The Characteristics of Recent Migrants CURF was collected in November 2010. Initial summary results from the survey were published on 24 May 2011 in the following publication: Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2010 (cat. no. 6250.0).

The CURF is generally released within six months after the release of an initial summary publication.

ACCURACY

The Characteristics of Recent Migrants 2010 CURF contains individual person level data (unit record). Along with unit record data, the CURF contains finer levels of detail of data items than what is otherwise published. For more information on the level of detail provided in the CURF, please see the file 6250055001_DATA_ITEM_LISTING_CORMS10E.XLS. Steps to confidentialise the data made available on the CURF are taken in such a way as to maximise the usefulness of the content while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents to ABS statistical collections. As a result, it may not be possible to exactly reconcile all the statistics produced from the CURF with published statistics.

For more information see Technical Manual - Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Expanded CURF, Nov 2010 (cat. no. 6250.0.55.001): Survey Methodology.

COHERENCE

While changes between 2004 and 2007 resulted in data not being comparable only minor development occurred for the 2010 survey. As such the 2007 and 2010 CURF survey

results are comparable. For a more detailed discussion on the differences between the surveys see the Technical Manual - Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Expanded CURF, Nov 2010 (cat. no. 6250.0.55.001): Using the CURF data.

INTERPRETABILITY

The Technical Manual - Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Expanded CURF, Nov 2010, (cat. no. 6250.0.55.001) is a key source for consultation when using a CURF. It includes survey objectives, methods and design; survey content; data quality and interpretation; output data items; and information about the availability of results; comparability with previous surveys; and the content of the CURF file. Further information can also be found in the Explanatory Notes section of the [Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2010](#) (cat. no. 6250.0) release.

ACCESSIBILITY

CURF microdata are not available to the public without special access being granted. All CURF users are required to read and abide by the [Responsible Access to CURFs Training Manual](#) (cat. no. 1406.0.55.003). Assistance in applying for CURF access as well as a list of available CURFs can be found on the ABS Microdata web pages.

The Expanded CURF can only be accessed through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL).

More detail regarding types and modes of access to CURFs can be found on CURF Access Modes and Levels of Detail web page.

If you have any questions regarding access to CURF Microdata please contact the Microdata and Multidimensional data Access Strategies Section or call (02) 6252 7714.